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March 11, 2015

NEWS RELEASE

EPFD responds to ComSAR event

Firefighters respond to ComSAR event at Transmountain Dr.

El Paso, Texas – At approximately 11:54 p.m. on Tuesday March 10, the El Paso Fire Department was dispatched to Transmountain Dr. when nearby residents saw flashing lights up on the mountain and called 911. Upon arriving on the scene at 12:08 a.m., crews heard a faint cry for help from the mountain. The Combined Search and Rescue team was immediately dispatched. At approximately 1:30 a.m., crews located a 13-year-old male. The boy told fire crews he had been separated from three additional boys, ages 11, 14 and 14. The full ComSAR team was dispatched and crews, assisted by helicopters from multiple agencies, searched through the night.

At approximately 4 a.m., a description of the boys was disseminated through the media encouraging residents to call 911 if they had information regarding the boys' whereabouts. At approximately 8:30 a.m., dispatch received numerous calls about three boys who matched the description waiting at a bus stop in the Helen of Troy and Redd Rd. intersection. A police unit swung by the locations, identified the boys and returned them to Transmountain Dr.

There were no injuries to the boys or fire personnel. A total of 7 units and 25 personnel from the El Paso Fire Department responded to this incident. El Paso Police, Ft. Bliss MedEvac, Texas Parks and Wildlife, US Customs and Border Protection, Texas Department of Public Service and the American Red Cross assisted in the incident.

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Media Contact: Carlos A. Briano
Fire Public Information Officer
Cell # (915) 820-9712